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CLAIM AMENDMENTSRECEIVED
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1 1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
2 a router for one or more packets that comprise an Internet Protocol ("IP") packet;
3 wherein the router comprises one or more packet replication components that
4 employ the IP packet to propagate a plurality of copies of the IP packet; and
5 wherein the router contemporaneously receives a plurality of identical IP packets
6 that comprise the IP packet, and wherein the router generates a plurality of copies of
7 the plurality of identical IP packets and propagates the plurality of copies of the plurality
8 of identical IP packets to an IP network component external to the router.

1 2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the router
2 receives the IP packet, and wherein the one or more packet replication components
3 comprises a packet replication component that employs the IP packet to generate the
4 plurality of copies of the IP packet.

1 3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the plurality of
2 copies of the IP packet comprise a first copy and a second copy of the IP packet; and
3 wherein the IP packet comprises an IP header, wherein each of the first copy and
4 the second copy of the IP packet comprise a copy of the IP header.

1 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein both the first copy and the
2 second copy of the IP packet are associated with a single IP address.

1 5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the plurality of
2 copies of the IP packet comprise a first copy and a second copy of the IP packet; and
3 wherein the router comprises a first switch fabric and a second switch fabric; and
4 wherein the packet replication component sends the first copy to the first switch
5 fabric, and wherein the packet replication component sends the second copy to the
6 second switch fabric; and
7 wherein the first switch fabric routes the first copy through a first path to an
8 intended destination of the IP packet, and wherein the second switch fabric routes the
9 second copy through a second path to the intended destination of the IP packet.

1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein upon a transmission failure in
2 one of the first path or the second path, the router continues propagation of one of the
3 first copy or the second copy to the intended destination on an available one of the first
4 path or the second path.

1 7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the IP packet
2 comprises a first IP packet, and wherein the router comprises a first line interface and a
3 second line interface; and

4 wherein the router receives the first IP packet on the first line interface, and
5 wherein the router receives a second IP packet on the second line interface
6 contemporaneously with the first IP packet, and wherein the first IP packet and the
7 second IP packet are substantially identical; and

8 wherein the packet replication component comprises a first packet replication
9 component, and wherein the first line interface passes the first IP packet to the first
10 packet replication component; and

11 wherein the second line interface passes the second IP packet to a second
12 packet replication component.

1 8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the first packet
2 replication component employs the first IP packet to propagate the plurality of copies of
3 the first IP packet, and wherein the second packet replication component employs the
4 second IP packet to propagate a plurality of copies of the second IP packet; and

5 wherein the plurality of copies of the first IP packet comprise a first copy and a
6 second copy of the first IP packet, and wherein the plurality of copies of the second IP
7 packet comprise a first copy and a second copy of the second IP packet; and

8 wherein the router comprises a first packet selection component and a second
9 packet selection component; and

10 wherein the first packet replication component sends the first copy of the first IP
11 packet to the first packet selection component, and wherein the second packet
12 replication component sends the first copy of the second IP packet to the first packet
13 selection component; and

14 wherein the first packet replication component sends the second copy of the first
15 IP packet to the second packet selection component, and wherein the second packet
16 replication component sends the second copy of the second IP packet to the second
17 packet selection component.

1 9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the router
2 comprises a first IP switch fabric and a second IP switch fabric; and

3 wherein the first packet selection component sends one of the first copy of the
4 first IP packet and the first copy of the second IP packet to the first IP switch fabric, and
5 wherein the second packet selection component sends one of the second copy of the
6 first IP packet and the second copy of the second IP packet to the second IP switch
7 fabric.

1 10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first IP packet
2 and the second IP packet comprise an indication of a destination; and

3 wherein the first IP switch fabric routes the one of the first copy of the first IP
4 packet and the first copy of the second IP packet through a first path to the destination,
5 and wherein the second IP switch fabric routes the one of the second copy of the first IP
6 packet and the second copy of the second IP packet through a second path to the
7 destination.

1 11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the IP packet is
2 associated with a real-time application, and wherein the router contemporaneously
3 propagates the plurality of copies of the IP packet to promote an increase in likelihood
4 that at least one copy of the plurality of copies of the IP packet arrives at the real-time
5 application.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the router comprises a packet
2 selection component that receives two IP packets and chooses one of the two IP
3 packets for propagation.

1 13. (Canceled)

1 14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the router
2 comprises a duplex edge router, the apparatus further comprising a duplex core router;
3 wherein the plurality of copies of the IP packet are associated with a single IP
4 address; and
5 wherein the duplex edge router contemporaneously propagates the plurality of
6 copies of the IP packet to the duplex core router.

1 15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more
2 packet replication components comprise a packet replication component that receives
3 the IP packet; and

4 wherein the packet replication component propagates the plurality of copies of
5 the IP packet, and wherein the plurality of copies of the IP packet comprise the IP
6 packet received by the packet replication component and one reproduction of the IP
7 packet.

1 16. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:
2 receiving an IP packet;
3 generating a plurality of copies of the IP packet, wherein the plurality of copies of
4 the IP packet comprise a first copy of the IP packet and a second copy of the IP packet;
5 propagating the first copy of the IP packet through a first path to an intended
6 destination of the IP packet; and
7 propagating the second copy of the IP packet through a second path to the
8 intended destination of the IP packet;
9 the method further comprising the steps of:
10 receiving contemporaneously a plurality of identical IP packets that comprise the
11 IP packet;
12 generating a plurality of copies of the plurality of identical IP packets; and
13 propagating the plurality of copies of the plurality of identical IP packets to an IP
14 network.

1 17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the IP packet is
2 associated with a real-time application, and wherein the step of propagating the second
3 copy of the IP packet through the second path to the intended destination of the IP
4 packet comprises the step of:

5 propagating the second copy of the IP packet through the second path different
6 than the first path to promote an increase in likelihood that at least one copy of the
7 plurality of copies of the IP packet arrives at the real-time application.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of propagating the
2 first copy of the IP packet through the first path to the intended destination of the IP
3 packet comprises the steps of:

4 sending the first copy of the IP packet to a first packet selection component;

5 selecting the first copy of the IP packet from one or more available IP packets at
6 the first packet selection component for passage to a first IP switch fabric; and

7 routing the first copy from the first IP switch fabric through the first path to the
8 intended destination of the IP packet;

9 wherein the step of propagating the second copy of the IP packet through the
10 second path to the intended destination of the IP packet comprises the steps of:

11 sending the second copy of the IP packet to a second packet selection
12 component;

13 selecting the second copy of the IP packet from one or more available IP packets
14 at the second packet selection component for passage to a second IP switch fabric; and

15 routing the second copy from the second switch fabric through the second path
16 to the intended destination of the IP packet.

1 19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the IP packet
2 comprises an IP header, and wherein the step of generating the plurality of copies of the
3 IP packet comprises the steps of:

4 generating the first copy of the IP packet that comprises a copy of the IP header;
5 and
6 generating the second copy of the IP packet that comprises a copy of the IP
7 header;
8 associating both the first copy and the second copy of the IP packet with a single
9 IP address.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of propagating the first
2 copy of the IP packet through the first path to the intended destination of the IP packet
3 comprises the step of:
4 selecting the first copy of the IP packet from the plurality of copies of the IP
5 packet for contemporaneous propagation with the second copy of the IP packet to the
6 intended destination of the IP packet;
7 wherein the step of propagating the second copy of the IP packet through the
8 second path to the intended destination of the IP packet comprises the step of:
9 selecting the second copy of the IP packet from the plurality of copies of the IP
10 packet for contemporaneous propagation with the second copy of the IP packet to the
11 intended destination of the IP packet.

1 21. (Currently amended) ~~An article~~ A computer-readable medium having
2 computer executable instructions for performing steps, comprising:
3 ~~one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media;~~
4 means in the one or more media for receiving an IP packet;

5 means in the one or more media for generating a plurality of copies of the IP
6 packet, wherein the plurality of copies of the IP packet comprise a first copy of the IP
7 packet and a second copy of the IP packet;

8 means in the one or more media for propagating the first copy of the IP packet
9 through a first path to an intended destination of the IP packet; and

10 means in the one or more media for propagating the second copy of the IP
11 packet through a second path to the intended destination of the IP packet;

12 means in the one or more media for receiving contemporaneously a plurality of
13 identical IP packets that comprise the IP packet;

14 means in the one or more media for generating a plurality of copies of the
15 plurality of identical IP packets; and

16 means in the one or more media for propagating the plurality of copies of the
17 plurality of identical IP packets to an IP network.